

CROSSOVER BILL SB0174_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
3/26/2024

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON CROSSOVER BILL SB#0174 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Child Support - Suspension of Driver's Licenses

TO: Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of CROSSOVER BILL SB#/0174, Child Support - Suspension of Driver's Licenses

This bill is an attempt to correct an injustice and a nonsensical application of law to a situation that, once corrected, will solve a significant problem in how the Child Support Enforcement Administration deals with persons in arrears on support.

An individual's child support arrears can only be remediated if that individual is earning an income that can be applied to resolve the arrears. Yet the current situation, the suspension of an individual's driver's license or privilege to drive, works to severely retard or completely stop that ability to remain employed to earn income to satisfy a judgment on monies owed. If you take away the ability of the individual to commute to employment where a public transit solution is unavailable, you are stopping that earning capacity. The individual then will become further behind in their obligations with limited or no path to recoup and repay obligations.

This punitive current law does not serve the interest of the person with the debt nor the persons who are owed the payment of child support. If we are to create economic justice in Maryland we must make every effort to help people earn income that can be applied to any expense, including child support, that they owe.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on CROSSOVER BILL SB#/0174.